



California State Parks

Quick Facts



Last updated 1/23/2007

California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

- The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVRD) was established in 1971 by the Chappie-Z'berg Act.
- The Division is funded by sources directly related to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use: fuel tax revenue, fines and forfeitures, OHV registration stickers, day use and camping fees at State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs), special event fees, concessionaire fees and interest. These funds are listed separately from those of California State Parks in the Governor's budget, and are used to manage OHV recreation.

California State Parks operated Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Areas

Carnegie SVRA located between Tracy and Livermore

Clay Pit SVRA located near Oroville and operated by the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area

Heber Dunes OHV Area located near El Centro and operated by Ocotillo Wells District on Imperial County land

Hollister Hills SVRA located near Hollister

Hungry Valley SVRA located near Gorman

Mammoth Bar OHV Area located near Auburn and operated by the Auburn State Recreation Area on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation land

Oceano Dunes SVRA located near Pismo Beach

Ocotillo Wells SVRA located near Borrego Springs

Prairie City SVRA located near Sacramento

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- The OHVMR Commission was established by the Legislature in 1982. The Commission has seven members; three are appointed by the Governor, two by the Senate Rules Committee and two by the Speaker of the Assembly. The OHV Commission's duties are:
 - Approve funding for minor and major capital outlay projects
 - Approve funding for grants and cooperative agreements
 - General policy guidance
 - Provide a forum for public input
 - Vehicles allowed in OHV parks are those properly identified or registered in California. Vehicles with current non-resident registration are allowed, but if the visiting enthusiast has no state



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OHV registration requirement, they must purchase a CA Non-Resident OHV Permit prior to operation in California. Examples of off-highway vehicles include: all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), dirt bikes, dual-sport motorcycles, pickup trucks, jeeps, sport utility vehicles (SUVs), go-carts, dune buggies and sand rails.

- Gasoline powered pocket bikes (tiny motorcycles) are not allowed.
- Vehicles are subject to restrictions at individual SVRAs and federally operated riding areas based on facilities and operational plans.
- The seven SVRAs and two off-highway vehicle areas in the State Park System offer a wide variety of recreational activities: dunes, trails, hill climbs, hiking trails, groomed & un-groomed snow trails for snowmobiles, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, driving, fishing, clamming, rock hounding where posted, and four-wheel drive obstacle courses. ATV rentals are available at Prairie City SVRA. ATV and sand rail rentals are available at Oceano Dunes SVRA.
- The OHMVR Division places a high priority on education, conservation and enforcement efforts that balance OHV recreation impact with programs that conserve and protect cultural and natural resources. For

example, in fiscal year 2006/2007, grants for law enforcement, conservation, restoration, planning, development, trail maintenance, acquisition, scientific research and safety education totaling over 18 million dollars will be awarded to county and federal land managers to assist them in managing Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation.

- Resource protection goals in SVRAs focus upon the long term sustainability of natural and cultural resources while providing settings for quality motorized and other recreational activities. Actions include: monitoring and adaptive management, survey and inventory of plant and animal communities, application of soil conservation standards, provision of wildlife corridors, the role of significant open space provider, conservation and restoration of natural areas, cultural resource inventory and protection, preventive law enforcement and education efforts and comprehensive signage.
- The Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division celebrates the opportunity to serve its' visitors in many ways:
 - Off-Road PALS is a safety education program using youth-sized OHVs. The program teaches safe, responsible, operation of OHVs with special consideration for other



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enthusiasts and the environment.

- Division staff develops displays for fairs and attend recreation shows (Off-road Expos etc.).
- Each SVRA maintains a training area for enthusiasts to learn how to ride safely and responsibly. The ATV Safety Institute provides on-site ATV safety training and certification to provide enthusiasts the opportunity to meet the California State Certification requirements for operation of ATV's.
- The Motorcycle Safety Foundation also trains

enthusiasts through certified motorcycle safety education classes at the SVRA training areas.

- Division staff develops and perform school programs, develop interpretive panels, maintain self-guided hike information, and stay current with the newest technology to answer questions from enthusiasts.
- The SVRAs offer safe, supervised, family-oriented access to public lands for OHV recreation. Off-highway vehicle recreation presents exciting opportunities for visitors of all ages.

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- The economic impact of off-highway vehicle recreation in California is an important element to the state's economy. OHV recreation is the fastest growing form of recreation in the state and contributes an estimated \$9 billion annually to the California economy.
 - For more information about OHV recreation and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, go to: www.ohv.parks.ca.gov or call 916-324-4442.